

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 181556Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6625
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04881

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEWT, UR, WB, GW
SUBJECT: FRG/SOVIET MIXED COMMISSION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 3328, (B) MOSCOW 1985 (C) BONN 4641

1. SOVIET WATCHERS MAY BE INTERESTED IN THE SLIGHTLY
DIFFERENT EXPLANATION WHICH WE HEAR FROM OUR SOURCES
REGARDING THE "POSTPONEMENT" OF THE GERMAN-SOVIET MIXED
COMMISSION MEETING. BOTH ECONMIN AND FONOFF OFFICIALS
RESPONSIBLE FOR SOVIET/GERMAN ECONOMIC MATTERS TELL US
THAT THE MARCH DATE FOR THE WORKING GROUP REFLECTED
ONLY THE FRG'S INITIAL THINKING AS TO WHEN THE NEXT
MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE. SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THIS
DATE HAD ONLY BEEN TENTATIVE.

2. FRG OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS
WISH TO SCHEDULE THE MIXED COMMISSION SESSIONS CLOSER
TO BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO BONN; THEREFORE, THEY WISH TO
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PUSH BACK THE WORKING GROUP MEETING UNTIL JUNE OR JULY,
WITH THE MIXED COMMISSION MEETING SOMEWHAT LATER.
ACTIVITY IN VARIOUS EXPERT GROUPS HAS PICKED UP, LEADING
OUR SOURCES TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL HAVE SOME
SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN MIND FOR THE WORKING GROUP'S
CONSIDERATION.

3. THE WORKING GROUP WOULD THEN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MIXED COMMISSION FOR ACTION, AND ANY NEW AGREEMENTS OR COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS COULD THEN BE SIGNED DURING THE BREZHNEV VISIT. IF THIS IN FACT IS THE CASE, THE FRG IS MORE THAN HAPPY TO WAIT UNTIL JUNE FOR THE WORKING GROUP MEETING. COMMENT: FOR THIS REASON, THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SOVIET DECISION AS A "REJECTION" OF PROPOSED MARCH DATE (REF A) SEEMS FAR TOO STRONG. END COMMENT.

4. NEITHER OF OUR SOURCES SUGGESTED THAT THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION BY THE BERLIN ECONOMIC EXPERT IN THE MIXED COMMISSION PLAYED A ROLE IN THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE MARCH MEETING. THEY EXPECT BOTH THE WORKING GROUP AND MIXED COMMISSION MGS TO TAKE PLACE AS NOW BEING DISCUSSED. FONOFF OFFICIAL BELIEVES THE PARTICIPATION PROBLEM CAN BE DEALT WITH ON THE FRINGES OF THE WORKING GROUP. ECONMIN OFFICIAL CHARACTERIZED THE ISSUE AS MINOR. VIEWS OF POLITICAL SIDE OF FONOFF, WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN VAN WELL'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW, ARE REPORTED SEPTTEL (REF C). STOESSEL

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